

Lansdowne Public Library Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2026

Attendance: Sarah Berkowitz, Marie Campuzano, John Green, Mark Lewis, Ellen Lustgarten, Bill Paterson, Julian Shendelman and Jobi Zink were in attendance.

Marie called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

Executive Session: The Board held an executive session to select two board members to fill the open seats on the Board. The executive session concluded at 7:57 and the public portion of the meeting began.

Minutes

The minutes from the April meeting were presented. Ellen made the motion to accept the minutes as they were written. Sarah seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion carried.

Treasurer's report

As the May meeting was being held one week early due to Election Day falling on our regularly scheduled meeting date, the April bills were not ready. Both April and May bills will be discussed at the June meeting.

Ellen provided the Treasurer's report for April with the account balances for April 30 as follows:

\$59,570	Checking Account
\$12,123	Money Market
\$153,606	PA Invest
\$98,359	Vanguard
	The Vanguard account increased \$6,400 since the last statement
\$324,025	Total assets.

April YTD Budget vs. Actual Report

Total revenue for the month was \$352,518. Total expenses were \$302,592 leaving a net of \$42,926. 4.7% of the total expenses were for the collection.

Marie made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Julian seconded the nomination. There were no objections and the motion carried.

DCLS Meeting

Jobi will attend the DCLS meeting on Thursday June 18 via Zoom.

Friends of the Lansdowne Public Library

The Friends hosted their Book and Bake Sale May 1-3 at the "old" library and raised \$2,200.

The Friends participated in the on-line Delco Gives county-wide fundraising effort for non-profit organizations held May 6-7. \$1,400 was raised through this effort. All funds raised through The Friends directly supports the Library including our programs and events such as summer reading, book of the year, and our new outdoor furniture.

The next Friends meeting will be on June 1 at 7 PM at the Library.

Governance Committee

Mark reported that the Governance Committee met to discuss expanding the board from 7 to 9 members. This discussion came after 9 people applied for the 2 vacancies on the board, with some candidates turned away as they were not Lansdowne residents. The committee consensus was that opening additional seats on the board could allow **X** seats to non-Lansdowne residents, reflecting more accurately the demographics of our users. This would also increase our capacity for the building expansion project and the associated work that we will be doing.

Prior to the meeting Mark circulated a document that explained how the number of board members and their residency requirement is set by the Borough Council, benefits of expanding the board, and potential downsides of increasing the number. It was suggested that sub-committees of the board could do additional work without expanding the board. Many felt that there are not enough committee members to divide into functional subcommittees.

The discussion that followed addressed how the Governance Committee arrived at 9 members. This is the number that serves on the Parks and Rec Board. It is unclear how many people are on the boards of the other libraries in Delco. The board discussed the need for Finance, Governance, and Ad Hoc Building committees, but agreed to considering others.

John addressed the issue of non-residents serving on the boards. Boards should reflect the organization and the community it serves. Users of the general library system, whether in person or online, are part of the community. Lansdowne is in a moment of increased awareness, excitement, and expansion which will draw more people to the town (as visitors and residents).

The Board discussed proposed boundaries for non-Lansdowne board members. There was a general consensus that they must be residents of Delaware County, and should be from the immediate surrounding area (East Lansdowne, Yeadon, Aldan, Clifton Heights, Upper Darby) and use the Lansdowne library as their primary library. Further, the board would not require a non-resident board member as part of the expansion proposal.

The board agreed that the next step would be to draft a work plan of the committees the library board would like to have, the justification for expanding the board, and an explanation of what we can gain or lose by adding additional seats with the option for non-Lansdowne residents filling not more than **X** seats.

Action item: Ellen will write the letter for the June meeting.

Director's Report

Bill said that he did not write the Director's Report as the meeting was held earlier in the month than usual. Bill mentioned a problem patron that submitted an incident report. The behavior and incident reflects mental issues, though he does not appear to be a safety risk

to himself or others. Mark asked about the resources available to Bill, the library staff, and the patron. Police would be able to deescalate a situation, and a mobile crisis unit might be too extreme. Sarah suggested asking the patron if he has someone to contact, just in case Bill needs to reach him.

Bill is working on a Case for Support/Value Statement identifying the deficiencies of the existing library and the data to support it. The oil remediation in the old library was done and will be done again.

Interviews for the Children's Assistant Position will be held shortly.

Ad Hoc Building Committee

The Ad Hoc Building Committee will be meeting May 27 at 5 PM. The Committee will present a plan to council that outlines the budget, rules, responsibilities (divided among the Library Board, the Friends, and the Borough) of the project. Once the plan is approved, Liese will present the plan to the Board.

The order of progression was questioned, but Bill confirmed that the plan needed to go to the Borough before the library Board could review it.

Report from Council

John sent a request to Borough Manager Debbie Brodeur to put library discussion on the agenda for the next council meeting.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Next Board meeting

The next Library Board meeting will be held at 7 PM on Tuesday, June 16 in the Bany Room.

Ellen made a motion to conclude the meeting. Sarah seconded the motion. The meeting closed at 8:40 P.M.

JZ

6/12/26